

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02
/077 W

-----040853 132021Z /70

O 131742Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2249
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7810

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH, SWA, UK, US, NI
SUBJECT: LEVELING WITH THE FMG ON ZIMBABWE

REF: LAGOS 7809

1. SEPTEL CONTAINS TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT TO FCO LONDON JULY 11
BY UK HIGH COMMISSION LAGOS REPORTING ON UK HIGH COMMISSIONER
FALLE'S CONVERSATION WITH GARBA THAT DAY. AS INDICATED IN
REFTEL, FALLE HAD BROKEN HIS LEAVE IN SWEDEN AT DAVID OWEN'S
REQUEST TO TALK WITH GARBA CONCERNING CURRENT UK THINKING ON
ZIMBABWE.

2. FALLE'S TELEGRAM URGES OWEN TO AUTHORIZE THE PASSING TO
GARBA OF INFORMATION CONCERNING SMITH'S CURRENT ATTITUDES AS
EXPRESSED TO GRAHAM AND LOW ON THEIR LAST VISIT TO SALISBURY.
I STRONGLY SUPPORT FALLE'S REQUEST AND SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY
LONDON BE AUTHORIZED TO ENCOURAGE SUCH ACTION BY THE FCO.
FOLLOWING ARE MY REASONS:

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3. GARBA EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE IMPATIENCE TO ME JULY 12
WITH REGARD TO WHAT HE TERMED LACK OF RESULT OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON ZIMBABWE. HE SAID OBASANJO HAD ASKED
HIM AFTER FALLE'S VISIT TO PRESS ME ON THIS AND TO TELL ME THAT
THE US "RISKED LOSING SOME OF ITS NEW CREDIBILITY" UNLESS WE
TOOK "MORE POSITIVE ACTION." I CANNOT TELL THE EXTENT OF BLUFF

IN OBASANJO'S REMARK BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR THAT HE EXPECTS MORE POSITIVE ACTION FROM THE US THAN FROM THE UK. GARBA DEMURRED WHEN I ASKED WHAT KIND OF ACTION OBASANJO HAD IN MIND. AT ANY RATE, IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT, IN SPITE OF MY AND OTHER EFFORTS TO DATE TO THE CONTRARY, BOTH OBASANJO AND GARBA REMAIN POORLY INFORMED ON THE COMPLEXITIES OUR INITIATIVE IS ENCOUNTERING AND ARE THEREFORE PRONE TO OVER-SIMPLIFICATION. THE FMG IS NONETHELESS CLEARLY DISPOSED TO LISTEN TO US, AND I BELIEVE IT IS WILLING TO ADJUST ITS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS TO THE REALITIES OF THESE COMPLEXITIES PROVIDED THE FMG UNDERSTANDS THEM BETTER. WE HAVE ACHIEVED REMARKABLE RESULTS, FOR EXAMPLE, BY HAVING BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE FMG INTO OUR CONFIDENCE ON THE NAMIBIAN TALKS. OBASANJO HAS PUBLICLY APPROVED OF THE FIVE-POWER CONTACT GROUP INITIATIVE, AND HE AND GARBA NOW SHOW REMARKABLE MODERATION OF VIEW ON THAT PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE, GARBA TOLD ME JULY 12 THAT OBASANJO RECENTLY TOLD NUJOMA HE SHOULD NOT BE SO STUBBORN ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN NAMIBIA DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. OBASANJO TOLD NUJOMA HE SHOULD REALIZE "THE OTHER NAMIBIANS INSIDE NAMIBIA" HAVE NO MORE CONFIDENCE IN THE OBJECTIVITY AND GOOD BEHAVIOR OF SWAPO TROOPS THAN NUJOMA HAS CONCERNING SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS. (FALLE'S REPORT TO OWEN CONTAINS CORROBORATIVE COMMENT ON THIS.)

I BELIEVE THAT A GREATER SHARING OF INFORMATION ON ZIMBABWE WITH OBASANJO AND GARBA MIGHT BRING GOOD RESULTS. IN FALLE'S
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ABSENCE FROM LAGOS, A TELEGRAPHIC LETTER FROM OWEN TO GARBA CONCERNING GRAHAM'S RECENT SALISBURY MISSION MIGHT DO THE TRICK IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

FYI: A LETTER FROM OWEN WOULD CARRY MUCH MORE WEIGHT THAN AN ORAL BRIEFING BY ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHN WILLIAMS, WHO IS WELL REGARDED BY MEA BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT GET ACCESS TO GARBA AND WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH LOWER-LEVEL MEA TYPES WHO MAY NOT GET THE MESSAGE STRAIGHT. END FYI.
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770249-0991
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770763/aaaaccke.tel
Line Count: 103
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: LEVELING WITH THE FMG ON ZIMBABWE
TAGS: PDEV, RH, WA, UK, US, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cffa576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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